

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, CGEN, CASC, UR, US (CRAWFORD, FRANCIS JAY)
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD AND I-H MOSCOW DIRECTOR
INTERROGATION BY KGB

REF: MOSCOW 18625

1. CONSOFF AND I-H MOSCOW DIRECTOR JOHN CHELLMAN
ACCOMPANIED JAY CRAWFORD TO LEFORTOVO PRISON ON
AUGUST 23. CRAWFORD WAS INTERROGATED BY KGB
MAJOR BELYAYEV FROM 0900 TO 1335, WHILE CHELLMAN
WAS INTERVIEWED BY ANOTHER KGB OFFICER FROM 0915
TO 1545. CONSOFF WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ACCOMPANY
EITHER CHELLMAN OR CRAWFORD.

2. KGB INTERROGATION OF CRAWFORD CENTERED ON
ALLEGED FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES, AND HE WAS
AGAIN CONFRONTED WITH DOCTORED EVIDENCE,
INCLUDING A LETTER FROM THE INTOURIST HOTEL
CLAIMING THAT CRAWFORD HAD PREVIOUSLY PAID HIS
BILLS IN RUBLES. THE LETTER ALLEGED THAT
CRAWFORD PAID BILLS FOR HIS TELEPHONE, HIS ROOM,
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AND HIS CAR FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY
7,500 RUBLES. IT IS SIGNED BY HEAD BOOKKEEPER
OF THE HOTEL AND DIRECTOR OF HOTEL. IT WAS
DATED JUNE 21. CRAWFORD INFORMED BELYAYEV THAT
THE INFORMATION WAS FALSE.

3. CRAWFORD WAS ADVISED TO CONTACT HIS LAWYER

IN NEXT FIVE DAYS SINCE THE TRIAL WAS IMMINENT.
MAJOR BELYAYEV HINTED THAT IT COULD TAKE PLACE
IN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

4. CHELLMAN WAS INTERROGATED AS A "WITNESS"
BY CPT SHAGALYEV. HE ASKED FOR EVIDENCE, NONE
WAS PRODUCED. INTERROGATOR ASKED CHELLMAN TO
SIGN PROTOCOL TO DETERMINE HOW OFFICE WORKED
AND WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.
AFTER A LONG AND DETAILED DISCUSSION ABOUT WORDING,
CHELLMAN SIGNED ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROTOCOL, WHICH CON-
CLUDED WITH CHELLMAN'S STATEMENT THAT HE KNEW OF NO
CRIME CRAWFORD COMMITTED. KGB OFFICERS TRIED TO CON-
VINCE CHELLMAN THAT CRAWFORD WAS GUILTY OF EMBEZZLING
I-H FUNDS.

5. DURING INTERROGATION SESSION, GENE PELL, NBC NEWS-
MAN, HAD CONFRONTATION WITH PLANCLOTHES KGB OFFICERS.
CONSOFF SAW CONFRONTATION IN FRONT OF WAITING ROOM AND
INTERVENED. KGB UNIFORMED OFFICER APPEARED AND TOOK
CONSOFF'S DIPLOMATIC CARD AND PELL'S JOURNALISTIC ID
WHICH HE RETURNED TO THEM ABOUT HALF AN HOUR LATER.
KGB OFFICER TOLD CONSOFF THAT PELL'S CAMERAMAN BOTHERED
LOCAL RESIDENTS AND THAT HE MUST NOT PARK NEAR LEFORTOVO
AS IT WAS "NOT POLITE". HE INVITED PELL INTO PRISON
WAITING ROOM AND TURNED ON CONSOFF AND SAID THAT
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CONSULAR COUNSELOR GROSS HAD NEVER WAITED AT THE PRISON,
AND THAT CONSOFF WAS BEHAVING BADLY (GRUBIY). HE THEN
RETURNED BOTH CARDS AND WITHDREW. PELL THEN LEFT
VICINITY OF LEFORTOVO WITH HIS CREW. COMMENT: BEHAVIOR
BY ALL KGB PERSONNEL WAS MORE HOSTILE AND RUDE THAN
BEFORE. END COMMENT.

6. CONSOFF PROTESTED TO MAJOR BELYAYEV AND COLONEL
VOLODIN THE NATURE AND LENGTH OF INTERROGATION.
SHORTLY AFTER CONCLUSION OF CHELLMAN INTERROGATION
AT 1600 HOURS, COLONEL VOLODIN ASKED CONSOFF "ON HIS
WORD OF HONOR" TO PRODUCE CRAWFORD WITHIN ONE HOUR.
CHELLMAN (WHOSE INTERROGATION COMPLETED FOR THE DAY)
AND CONSOFF ACCOMPANYING CRAWFORD TO LEFORTOVO AT
1700 HOURS.

7. EMBASSY WILL LODGE APPROPRIATE PROTEST ON THURSDAY.
TOON

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